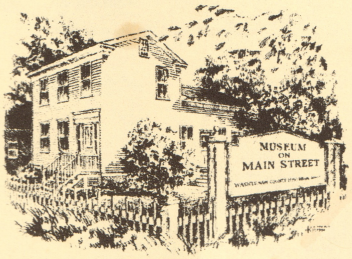

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2005

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MUSEUM DIRECTOR
Alice Cerniglia

INFORMATION
Published Seven Times A Year
From September-May.

Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092
Fax 734.663.0039
Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web Site:
www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

EDWARD RICE • M.S., HISTORICAL PRESERVATION, EMU

History Of Front Door Revealed

This past fall the front door of the Museum was stripped of over a century's build-up of paint. There appeared to be approximately 15 to 20 layers of paint on each side. The most recent layers had not adhered well due to the weight of the paint and the breakdown of the oils in some of the early layers. Removing the exterior paint revealed that the exterior side had originally been stained and varnished a dark brown. Inside nearly all the layers were shades of white although the earliest color was a fawn and the next two were shades of green, one being an apple green and the other a dark green.

Another interesting discovery was the location of the original hinges and box lock. This revealed that the door originally opened in and to the right rather than to the left as it does today. At some point in the recent past a small strip of wood had been attached both to the top and bottom of the door. These patches were probably added to repair minor rot or wear. The door is in good solid condition and with proper maintenance should last for years to come.

PATRICIA F. SMITH, J.D.

Salute To Board Member Peggy Haines

The Washtenaw County Historical Society wishes to salute Board Member Peggy Haines, outgoing County Clerk, for her outstanding career in public service.

A life-long public servant, Peggy began working with the county in 1960, in an entry-level job with the Register of Deeds office. After five years she was appointed to the position of chief deputy register of deeds, where she served for 25 years. In February of 1990, after the retirement of former County Clerk Robert Harrison, Peggy was appointed to serve as County Clerk/Register of Deeds; she was elected to the position later on that year. The county reelected Peggy in 1992, 1996, and 2000.

During that time, the county was treated to Peggy's positive, "can do" attitude and exceptional leadership skills (not to mention her trademark red, white, and blue scarves). During her tenure, Peggy oversaw many changes in county government, the most significant of which was computerization. In the time since Peggy began serving our county, we have gone from inkwells to computers, punch cards to computerized voting.

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In addition to volunteering on our board, Peggy is also active with the Salvation Army Board of Directors. Peggy has indicated that, in her retirement, she hopes to volunteer more with both organizations, as well as spending time with her husband of 41 years, Andrew Haines.

Thank you, Peggy Haines, for being a valuable WCHS Board Member for four years and congratulations on your outstanding career in public service!

Artrain USA - Debra Polich

Artrain USA is America's Hometown Art Museum.

On Sunday Novemeber 21st Debra Polich, Director of the Artrain USA, spoke to members and guests of the Washtenaw County Historical Society at the NEW Center on North Main Street. Debra gave a visual presentation with PowerPoint.

In a culturally rich community such as Ann Arbor, we take access to the arts for granted. We have so much here, its hard to imagine that others do not.

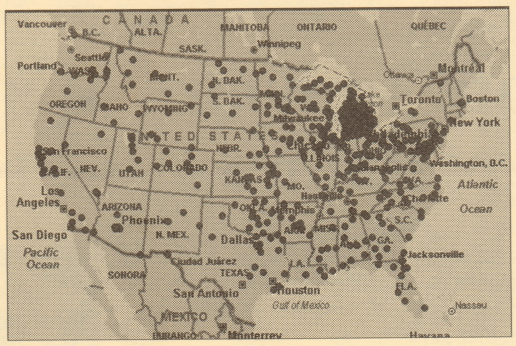
A museum on a train affords many people in cities without art museums or cultural programs the chance to have their own museum in their own backyard.

We've been traveling across the nation ever since 1971.

To date, Artrain USA has welcomed 2.93 million visitors during 750 community visits in 44 states plus the District of Columbia.

We've been in towns as small as 300 and as large as 3 million. Our impact is greatest in the smaller towns.

In Randolph, MN, population 300, 3,000 people visited Artrain.

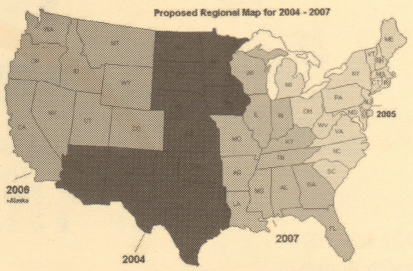


Sharing The World's Greatest Artists

- Romare Bearden
- Alexander Calder
- Mary Cassatt
- Dale Chihuly
- Chuck Close
- Willem de Kooning
- Jim Dine
- Marcel Duchamp
- Helen Frankenthaler
- Sam Gilliam
- Red Grooms
- David Hockney
- Edward Hopper
- Roy Lichtenstein
- Henri Matisse
- Joan Miro
- Amedeo Modigliani
- Henry Moore
- Robert Motherwell
- Georgia O'Keefe
- Claes Oldenburg
- Pablo Picasso
- Robert Rauschenbert
- Fredric Remington
- Norman Rockwell
- Auguste Rodin
- James Rosenquist
- George Segal
- David Smith
- Raphael Soyer
- Frank Stella
- Andy Warhol
- Emil Weddige
- J. B. Wyeth
- Andrew Wyeth

We boast an impressive list of artists whose works have been in an Artrain USA exhibition.

Imagine living in a rural town and having the opportunity to see original works of art by these artists:



2004 - 2007 National Tour Region

We change our exhibitions every 3 to 4 years with the intention of traveling them coast to coast.

We plot the regions based on the major railroads systems.

Each year we visit about 30 cities and welcome an average of 90,000 people on board.

We spend about a week in each town.

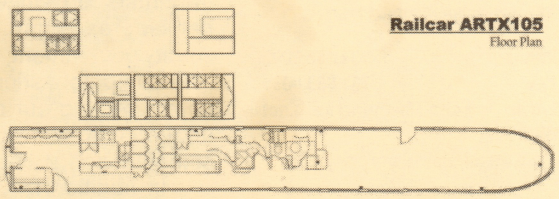
Important Dates

- 1986 – Artrain moves headquarters to Ann Arbor
- 1993 – Artrain moves to NEW Center
- 1997 – Artrain takes board national
- 1999 – Artrain purchases and renovates new railcars
- 1999 – Artrain becomes Artrain USA

Railcar History

- **Artrain USA's Consist** – Five railcars
- Manufactured by the Budd Company between 1946 and 1949.
- Known as "streamliners" because of their sleek appearance designed to appeal to the public in the 1940's and 50's.
- Purchased and renovated by Artrain USA in 1999
- Built in 1949 by New York Central

ARTX105 -- Observation Car



- Known as a boat-tail due to its rounded end design offering a 180 degree view of the landscape.

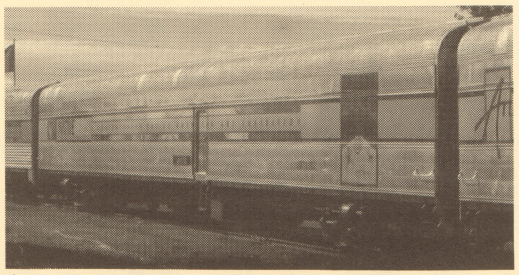
- 1960 sold to Kansas City Southern on *Southern Belle* lunch car added
- In 1970, sold for use as a restaurant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- 1987 The National Railroad Historical Society, New Orleans Chapter bought the car in 1987.
- Restoration 2005 – Save America's Treasures $149,000 Matching Grant - $35,000 to go.

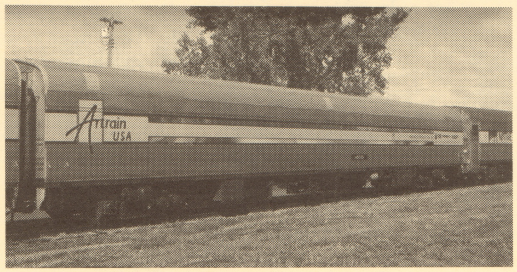
ARTX101 Baggage Dormitory

- Built in 1947 for the New York Central railroad (NYC) as Baggage Dormitory #8976.
- Originally housed the crews on the NYC's most famous passenger trains including the *20th Century Limited*.
- 1964 – 1968 assigned as a dormitory for track maintenance crews.
- Last owned by the New Orleans Chapter of the National Railroad Society

ARTX 102 & 103 – Twin Cars

- Built in 1946 by Pennsylvania Railroad as Kitchen Dormitory 4621 and Table Car 4618.
- Traveled with the Pennsylvania Railroad's premier train the *Broadway Limited*.
  - two cars allowed more passengers to be served at one time and provided a larger kitchen area and a small dormitory for the crew.
  - Raymond Lowey designed the interiors. He also designed the Lucky Strike cigarettes logo, the Studebaker Avanti and the interior of the Concorde.





- 1971 – 1978 used as Amtrak Passenger Cars

ARTX 104 is converted to an Artists' Studio and gift shop.

Visitors can watch artists at work. We have artists that travel with us and we invite local artists to demonstrate while we are in their town.

Artrain USA's Exhibitions

- Change every three to four years
- 13 Exhibitions covering varied subjects
  - Must be conducive to the train environment
- Lenders include
  - Smithsonian Institution
  - Detroit Institute of the Arts
  - Metropolitan Museum of Art
  - Heard Museum
  - MOMA

Artrain USA People

- 21 Member Board of Directors
- 15 Member Staff
- Local Community Host and Committees
- Volunteers Guides & Artists

Artrain USA Builds Communities

- We bring people & organizations together
  - Arts organizations
  - Educators
  - Businesses
  - Schools
  - Government
  - Service clubs

Artrain USA Is A Catalyst

- "What ifs?" become realities
  - Arts organizations created
  - Depot renovations

Continued on page 4.

Artrain USA

Continued from page 3.

- Art education programs started
  - Parks being created
  - Economic impact
  - Creating an we can do it

A Week In The Life Of Artrain USA

- Wednesday
  - Arrive and set up
  - Guide training
  - Evening reception
- Thursday & Friday
  - School and group tours
- Saturday & Sunday
  - General Public
  - Sunday Evening tear down
- Monday & Tuesday
  - Travel & rest

Communities often use this event to thank volunteers or raise much needed funds.

Artrain USA: America's Hometown Museum

Two days during Artrain USA's visit are reserved for educational tours.

Students are prepared for their tours by working in the classroom with an advance education curriculum provided to their teachers prior to the visit.

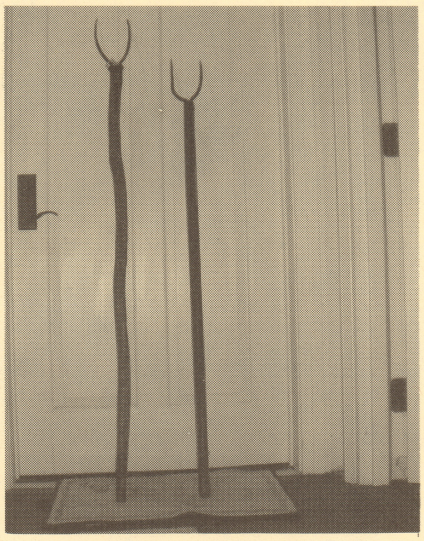
Photos courtesy of Artrain USA

AMY ROSENBERG • A PIECE OF THE PAST

Conservation Of Tools

This is the first of what I hope will be many small tastes of conservation both in the museum and at home. This first article on "Tools" corresponds with the new exhibit "Michigan Territory-Washtenaw County", which will run March 2, - June 5, 2005. The exhibit will not only focus on tools, but also cover what early settler's could expect in the newly accessible land of the Northwest Territory.

A tool is made of metal pieces or metal and a handle, usually made of wood. Specific references, examples of tools, their age or other information can be found on the WEB at www.davistownmuseum.org or www.tooltimer.com.



Two-tined pitchforks. The one on the left has a tree branch for a handle, the one on the right is lathe turned wood.

You can tell if part of the tool is iron if it adheres to a magnet. If it does not, it is another metal, or another material. The working part of the tool is either cast or forged metal. When it is cast, the metal has been melted and poured into a mold. When forged, a piece of metal, usually iron, is heated in a fire to the correct temperature, taken out and hammered (forged) into the correct form It is then cooled quickly in a bucket of water. In either case, the iron is then finished by smoothing, polishing and oiling.

The wood part can be a bit more difficult to pin down. Oak or another hard wood is usually used. But sometimes you have to examine a piece of the wood with the help of a microscope to determine the source wood.

On the other hand, you can tell easily how the handle has been made. It may have been turned on a lathe, hand formed, or not formed at all and just attached in its natural form. Look at the handle or your tool. If it has tool marks and it is not round, it is then hand formed. If it has a depression at the end where the lathe went and the handle looks circular, it is lathe turned. Look at the joining of the tool and the handle, there is a collar and perhaps some nails. You can usually tell if these are machine or hand made nails by looking at them. By looking at the same characteristics as the tool's metal, they were either forged or cast.

Next, look at the tool with an eye of a detective. Was this tool used a lot or a little? Look at the handle and at the working part. Is it worn? Is it smooth or nicked? What can you say about it?

To clean this object, you should remember that it is old, and for that reason, do not over clean it. You can dust it with a fine duster or brush, but you should not clean any part of it with anything stronger than that brush. If it is rusty, you can brush the rust off with fine steel wool, and then oil it. You should not use rust remover because it is too strong for an old tool and it is also toxic for humans.

You cannot tell who made it, who used it or if it was used a lot or a little by its shape or form. For that history you must rely on the owner of the object. So if you can you should write something about it or get someone to say something and record it. If the piece is too old to have anyone talk about it, you can do some research and look it up. Look at other pieces like it in a museum or other peoples' collections.

I would happily consider any questions you may have. You can e-mail to my attention to wchs-500@ameritech.net or write to Amy Rosenberg at the Museum on Main, 500 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI, 48104.

JUDY CHRISMAN

President's Letter

There have been some new improvements made to the museum building in the past few months. **Bill Gainsley** of Gainsley Electric updated all of the wiring in two rooms upstairs. The computers are now on separate circuits so that they do not turn off if someone inadvertently flips the light switch and our maze of extension cords is no longer necessary.

Stafford Carpentry, Inc. replaced the basement door which had rotted away at the bottom due to our drainage problem and also added a sill. At the same time he reconfigured the upper landing to divert some of the water from the roof down the driveway instead of down the stairway to the basement. We hope that these changes will prevent future flooding of the basement.

Thanks to those who have donated items recently: **Ted Aprill, Jr.** for the naval gear issued to him at Camp Moffat, Great Lakes Training Center in 1945; **Linda Loos** for a sad iron; **Joann Culbertson** for items from Fiegel's; **John Schaupner** for a copper subdivision plate; articles and family pictures of the **Eberbach's**; an 1896 Palladium and other items.

Thanks also to **Edward and Marilyn Couture** who decorated our Christmas tree and to **Ann DeFreytas**, **Gladys Saborio** and **Sue Kosky** who helped put up the holiday exhibit.

Correction

In spite of many proof readings, the headline of the current exhibit was wrong in the last newsletter. It read 'Tables and Chairs' when it should have read 'Tables and Treats'. As it turns out even that was wrong. The true title of the current exhibit is 'A Taste of the Seasons.' It runs until February 20.

ALICE CERNIGLIA • NEXT EXHIBIT

Michigan Territory Washtenaw County

MARCH 2 - JUNE 5, 2005. By comparison to Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Michigan was something of a "late bloomer" among the states of the Old Northwest. With premature optimism, some Michigan citizens had convinced Congress that the area should become a territory in 1805, two hundred years ago.

With the advent of the War of 1812, Michigan found itself both a battlefield and an occupied territory. The future state emerged from the war with William Hull, the territorial governor, discredited and its primitive economy in disarray. Military outposts were scattered throughout the territory, but only Detroit, the capital, could call itself a village.

The next exhibition at the Museum will focus on Michigan Territory as seen through the development of Washtenaw County. Who were our first settlers? What did the county look like? We will tell the local story through use of our collection and plat maps.

Advertising for this map by Orange Risdon touted the Michigan Territory as 'abounding in lands of the most fertile and healthy description' and that 'the climate is particulary adapted to our eastern constitution.' Photo courtesy Clements Library.

We Are Grateful For Volunteers

We thank **JOHN CHRISMAN** for securing the front door against the west wind – after the layers of paint were removed the door it did not fit tight. Twice the burglar alarm went off late at night and we had to come to the Museum to be sure that all was well.

Our parking lot is plowed but the city snowplows throw ice and snow onto the entrances as they clean the city streets. We thank member, **DAVID FERGUSON**, who stops on his way to work in the early morning and clears the clogged entrances so that we do not get stuck. David's son, **DANA FERGUSON**, came New Year's Day to clear the entrances and remove snow from the museum porches.

We thank the **ANN ARBOR SNOW REMOVAL** for donating the sweeping of the Main Street and Beakes Street sidewalks after each snow fall.

Announcement

Cobblestone Farm Association Annual Meeting, Wednesday, February 16th, 7pm. Wystan Stevens, local historian, will give a talk entitled "Ticknor Burial Mysteries and Other Cobblestone Ruminations". Free-public invited, refreshments. 2781 Packard Rd. Cobblestone Barn, Upstairs. For further information call 734/ 434-4753.

Program Schedule 2005

Vice president and Program Chair, Ralph Beebe, has planned interesting programs for the coming season. All programs are held the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM. The talks are free and open to the public. Members receive a post card prior to each talk with instructions on how to reach the lecture. Light refreshments are served.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 • 2:00 PM
MICHIGAN THEATER
"RESTORING A COMMUNITY TREASURE"
603 E. LIBERTY STREET
ANN ARBOR

Russell Collins will talk about restoring the Michigan Theater.

During the business portion of the meeting, the membership will vote on the proposed WCHS Bylaw Change (see page 8 of this newsletter). All interested members are invited to attend.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 • 2:00 PM
BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY
"TOUR of LIBRARY EXPANSION"
1150 BEAL AVE
UM NORTH CAMPUS, ANN ARBOR

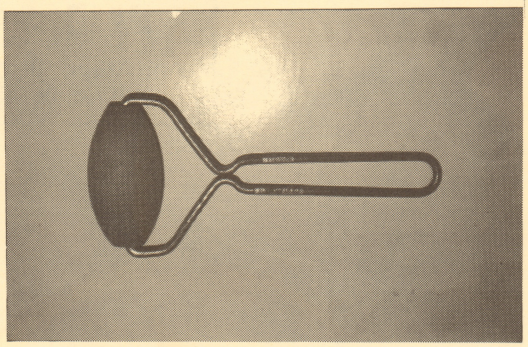
Director, Francis X. Blouin, will describe the work performed to expand the library

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 • 2:00 PM
BROOKHAVEN MANOR
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
"LOST ANN ARBOR"
401 E OAKBROOK
(near Eisenhower / Briarwood Mall)
ANN ARBOR

Susan Wineberg, newsletter editor emerata and current Board Member of WCHS, will talk about her newly published book, *Lost Ann Arbor*. Susan describes buildings that have been demolished in Ann Arbor.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 • 6:00 PM

Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be a pot luck supper at a yet to be determined site.



What Is It?

Do you know what this 'mystery' roller is? The overall length is 7 ¾ inches. The tapered wooden roller is 3 inches wide.

HOLIDAY EXHIBIT

A Taste Of The Seasons

Chocolate service setting which is part of the Bach china purchased by Philip Bach in Cincinnati in 1878 for his third wife, Anna Botsford Bach.

Table set for dinner for 10 using the Bach china service purchased by Philip Bach in Cincinnati in 1878 for his third wife, Anna Botsford Bach. The goblets are on loan from Gladys Saborio and the silverware is on loan from Donald Cleveland and Sue Kosky.

Table set with Bach silver tea and coffee service.

Photo of the current exhibit 'A Taste of the Seasons' which runs until February 20, 2005.

Photos by Judith Chrisman

INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

Volunteer Opportunities

DOCENTS

Spend an occasional weekend afternoon greeting our guests. Can you spare a Saturday or Sunday afternoon once a week, once a month or once every few months? If so, give us a call.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

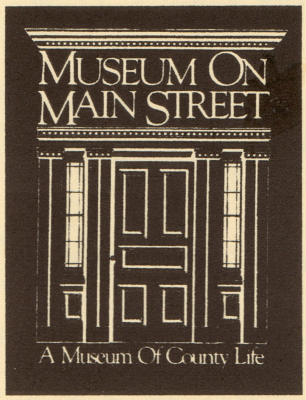
Yes, we are still hoping a person will come forth, a volunteer, to coordinate a team that would coordinate the creation of our newsletter, *Washtenaw Impressions*, seven times a year. We already have two volunteers that would like to work under a leader—would a volunteer editor please step forward?

ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

We are seeking a person, computer literate, who would like to learn the ins and outs of being an assistant membership chair. The Society has excellent museum-specific software which keeps track of members, donations, thank you notes and mailing labels. The work is somewhat seasonal—greatest the month after the membership letters are sent out in early January. The work must be done at the Museum.

HOUSEKEEPING ANGELS

There must be a person or a team of two that really love making things neat and clean. Our Museum would welcome a team that would come in bi-weekly and spend a couple of hours shining up the place. We would truly appreciate these people.



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

IMPORTANT MEETING
Sunday, February 20, 2005
Michigan Theater
Vote on bylaws change

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 96

SUNDAY • 2 PM
FEBRUARY 20, 2005
"RESTORING A COMMUNITY TREASURE"
SPEAKER
RUSSELL COLLINS
MICHIGAN THEATER
503 E. LIBERTY ST. • ANN ARBOR

MEMBER 2005
NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008

48103X3008 30

WCHS Bylaw Change

The Board of Directors is proposing the following change in the Society Bylaws the Board feels that the editorship of the Washtenaw *Impressions* should no longer be an elected position. **Voting on this proposal change will take place on Sunday, February 20, 2005 at the General Meeting to be held at the Michigan Theater.**

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Proposed Bylaws Change

Article VII Officers and Duties

Current: Section 2 • The elected officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Washtenaw *Impressions* Editor, and Immediate Past President

Proposed: Section 2 • The elected officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President

Article XI Committees

Proposed: ***(new section)***

Section 16 Publications • The Publications Committee shall be responsible for the preparation of the *Washtenaw Impressions*. This committee shall write, edit, and have the *Impressions* printed. The Chair of this committee shall be considered the Editor.

Current Section 16 becomes 17, 17 becomes 18.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.